Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 3 May, 1861.

My Dear Garrison,

58 Mrs. Chapman, in a letter I have just received, expresses the opinion that, in consequence of the war (which must cut off our foreign as well as cripple our home resources), it will not be possible to keep both the Standard and the Liberator alive; and she expresses a wish that there may be a union of the two papers, on terms agreeable to yourself and to the friends of the cause generally. I know how strenuously you have insisted hitherto

upon ~~making~~ preserving the Liberator as the untrammelled exponent of your own opinions upon all subjects. Whether the extraordinary emergency in which the Anti-Slavery cause is now placed ~~will~~ be regarded by you as a sufficient reason for waiving your personal preference in this particular or not, I do not know; but I am sure you will weigh with candor any suggestion or proposition looking to the maintenance, intact, of the American Anti-Slavery Society and its organ. It has occurred to me that, possibly, in view of the precarious state of your health,

you might consent to at least a temporary union of the two papers on terms that would be agreeable to the friends of the cause generally. ~~With the~~ Your connection with the united journal might be such as ~~to the load~~ to relieve you of the minor details of editorial duty and thus give you more time for the employment of your pen, ~~which~~ without diminishing your pecuniary resources. If the cause is to have but one paper, there are many and very important reasons why that paper should be published in New York. As I have said to Mrs. Chapman, so I now

say to you, if the Ex. Com. feel that they must make a change, they had better do it before the treasury runs entirely dry. They should not act hastily, but either summon a meeting of the Assn. Society by circular, or call a council of discreet friends from Philadelphia, New York and other places, to share with them the responsibilities of the hour. As for myself I am ready to co-operate in any arrangement that may be judged best — to serve in any capacity where I may be needed — or to retire from the field.

Yours faithfully,

Oliver Johnson